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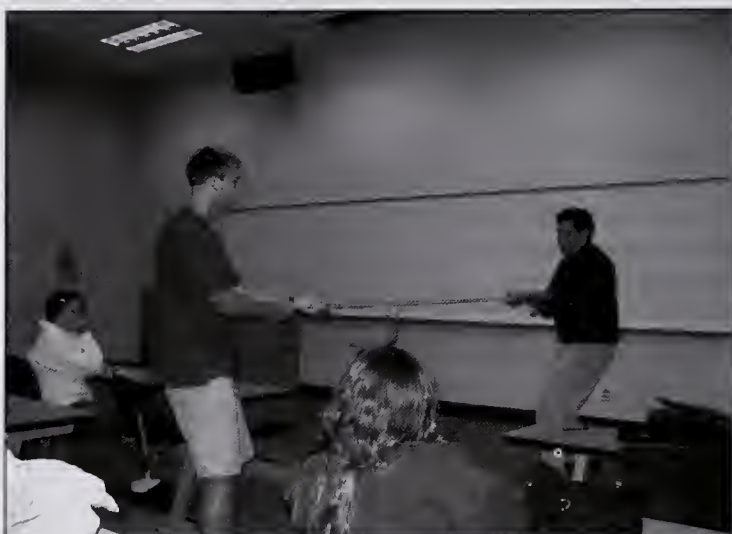
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**SAINT
JOSEPH'S**
COLLEGE
INDIANA

Involved For Life



Left: Joe Larson helps Bloom demonstrate a point about storytelling. Right: Bloom poses with freshman David Spencer. (Photos courtesy of Katherine Stembel)

Author Stephen Bloom Spends Day At SJC

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief and Melissa Piskula, Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 20th, 2005, SJC welcomed Stephen Bloom, the author of Postville: A Clash Of Cultures In Heartland America, a required text that has been on the Core I reading list for three years. During Bloom's time on the SJC campus, he delivered a Core I lecture, held two question and answer sessions, and spoke to English and Creative Writing students. As a result, students not only got to *hear* what went into the crafting of Postville, but had the opportunity to talk with Bloom himself about Postville and/or their interests in journalism and writing as a profession.

Bloom's Core I lecture focused on place and how people are influenced by where they live and the customs and traditions involved with that place. He then related that to Postville, noting the difference between the friendly and outgoing nature of the citizens of Postville and the closed-off exclusivity of the Hasidic Jews who moved to the tiny Iowa town. Through Bloom's lecture, students had the opportunity to hear first-hand

what life in Postville was truly like and the problems that originated when these two very different groups of people had to live side by side. Freshman Angela Jones said, "It was great having Stephen Bloom come and speak with us. He made it possible for us to see the book from his point of view and his thoughts about what occurred among the Postville citizens."

Bloom also read descriptions of certain people he had met in Postville from his book, and then proceeded to elaborate on what it has been like since the publication of Postville. "The Hasidim of Postville no longer speak to me, and I am no longer welcome at the synagogue there," Bloom told the audience. "I have received letters from Jews attacking me for what I have written, and it has been very difficult for me and my family." He related an example of an older Jewish woman who stood up at one of his readings and cried, "Shame, shame, *shame* on you!" for the criticism he had written of certain Jewish, namely Hasidic, practices, attitudes, and beliefs.

Despite these negative reactions, Bloom's book is also being viewed as a breath of fresh air among some members of the Hasidic community. He mentioned an instance where two Hasidic women, a mother and her daughter, approached him after one of his readings. He described how they leaned close after making sure no one saw them, and said, "We're all reading your book." Bloom indicated that it was moments like these where he knew that there were positive things occurring as a result of his book, and that not all of the reactions of the Jewish community were negative.

His session with students interested in a career in writing and journalism focused on observation, storytelling, and how to be successful in the journalism profession. Bloom commented on how he begins his writing process, citing observation as the most important part of writing. The ideas for a story tend to come through Bloom's observations of others in their natural surroundings, because they help form the plots and characters

involved in the action. As a result, Bloom never leaves home without his notebook. Bloom also provided encouragement in pursuing writing as a career by citing highly successful authors and journalists who have made quite a bit of money doing what they love to do. The key to it all, according to Bloom, is to become "really good" at what you choose to do, and constantly place yourself in a career opportunity that fosters growth and offers a challenge. Most importantly, Bloom shared what it takes to "find the story" in something and how to capture that in words.

SJC students, whether freshmen in Core I or junior and senior English and Journalism majors, all had the opportunity of having a renowned author visit campus and listen to his insight on the power of place, the power of telling a story successfully, and the power of voice; specifically, how that voice can affect change by raising awareness of people or issues that tend to be marginalized or ignored.

Restoration Ecology Class Tackles Local Wetlands

By Alan Walczak, Staff Writer

Dr. Brodman's Restoration Ecology course is currently attempting a very large project: completely restoring and maintaining a large wetland and some pieces of native tall grass prairie in the Rensselaer area. The whole Rensselaer region used to be tall grass prairie and wetlands before the whole area was drained in the 1900's for the rich soil used for farming today. The class's aim is to convert a little bit of the area back to the way it once was. The inspiration for the project stemmed from the Kankakee Sands Restoration area headed by The Nature Conservancy in Newton County, west of North Newton High School. Once Brodman received permission from the college to solicit grant money for the endeavor and secured the necessary funds for the project, his classes got underway implementing the restoration

stages at various sites in Rensselaer. Brodman believes there is a three-phase approach that outlines the whole process. The first phase is the large wetland restoration. The wetlands are home to many different species of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. There is a piece of land on SJC property near the water treatment plant and the Iroquois River that runs through the town, where Brodman's former Environmental Systems class began the wetland management process.

The second phase is underway at a site between the Iroquois and the college farm, and one not too far from the lake. This phase consists of actually cultivating, restoring and managing a prairie site. This involves doing some seed collecting and controlled burns. Seed collecting requires students to go to designated sites

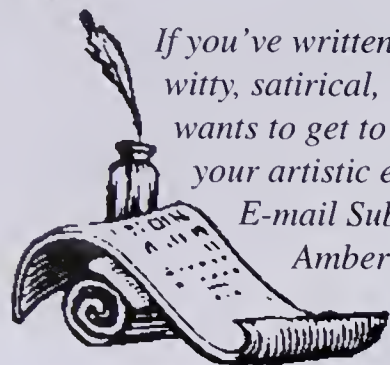
and get seeds to plant on the restoration site. Controlled burns are very necessary because the heat of the fire is what causes certain species of plants to germinate. "Natural prairies were actually managed by fire from lightning," Brodman said. Next Friday marks the first controlled burn conducted at the site, and planting will begin this fall.

The third phase is simply managing the site and prolonging its existence. There is a lot of work that must be done and a lot of chances to take in order to get to this stage of ecological management. The natural benefits of restoring each ecosystem are numerous. Natural habitats for native creatures, rare species, and the habitats for them are scarce. Carrying out this project is part of eliminating habitat fragmentation and promoting captive breeding.

All of these activities require students to apply what they learn in the classroom to actual situations occurring outside the classroom, preparing them for careers in their chosen fields of study. Brodman said, "The students learn skills during their time in class that will be very useful to them when they get into the real world."

So far, the project seems to be running smoothly currently in the second phase. Each class will improve upon the ecological restoration project as the years pass, and eventually there will be a fully restored natural wetland and prairie for generations to observe and enjoy.

For more information about the work the Restoration Ecology class is doing in restoring local wetlands, contact Brodman at ext. 6215 or via email at bobb@saintjoe.edu.



If you've written something brilliant, witty, satirical, or otherwise, Measure wants to get to know you! Submit your artistic endeavors to Measure!

E-mail Submissions Editor

Amber Slagal at

asj5055@saintjoe.edu!

Even This Guy Has An Opinion!



Come on, guys: don't let a pumpkin and/or scarecrow intimidate you. Speak your mind and see it in print!

Senior Weekend or Bust?

The decision regarding Senior Weekend is one that affects three out of four students at Saint Joseph's College. *The Observer* welcomes your comments, concerns, and opinions surrounding this issue.

If you want an extra night to pack-up, share times with friends, or drink responsibly for one last time at SJC, let us know. If you think that the college should abolish graduation ceremonies and school traditions all together, say so.

Voicing your opinion now may not change the scheduling next year; however, sophomores and freshmen still have a chance to change this new policy. Please email your opinion regarding the shortened Senior Weekend to the Opinion Editor.

observer-editors@saintjoe.edu

Sick of Senior Weekend

By George White, *Opinion Staff Writer*

Over the past few weeks I have heard a lot of talk about Senior Weekend. More specifically, I have heard several (and by several I mean dozens) of people complaining that this year's Junior class will not have a Senior Weekend next year due to scheduling problems. With the amounting of whining and moaning this is eliciting, you would think the administration had decided to deny everyone in the class weeks and weeks of revelry, rather than one night.

That is right: it is only one night we are going to be missing out on. One night of nothing but drunk people stumbling around outside of the apartments giving the Campus Life staff and Security a hard time when confronted with simple things (i.e., "I'm sorry, but you can't have a bar sitting in the IM field" or "Sir, I know you are happy your son is graduating college, but please put your pants back on"). As both a Student Security officer and a Resident Assistant, I have seen people I once respected degenerate into the most disrespectful people you can imagine during Senior Weekend.

When I voiced my lack of outrage at the loss of Senior Weekend, I was met with shock from my friends. Some of the more common objections I have heard about this and my rebuttals follow:

"But George, Senior Weekend is the last time you get to hang out with all of your friends from college."

To this I respond, hang out on Thursday and Friday nights. Hang out with them the entire semester before. I really have a hard time believing that one night of drunken revelry is really going to make a huge difference in the long run.

"But George, with one less day, we will have trouble moving out on time." Start packing earlier then. There aren't any finals on the Friday before graduation; pack then. Everyone else has to pack then, and they all seem to make it out of the dorm on time.

"But George, every other class has gotten Senior Weekend, and it isn't fair that our class doesn't." Life isn't fair and it never will be. Events change, and traditions aren't always upheld. These are facts of life that you should have already been learned by the time you enter college.

On a final note, I want to express that I know why people are upset about the changes in the graduation schedule. I don't really like the changes either, but they aren't earthshaking changes that will forever alter the way things occur in our lives. The changes amount to one thing: a loss of one day here at Saint Joseph's College. In the grand scheme of things, one day is a rather trivial matter, and we need to stop complaining about things which are not going to be changed and move on with our lives.

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Are you looking for something fun to do on Halloween?

Well, join the SJC Volunteer Corps as we Trick-or-Treat for the Hungry!

We'll be heading out around Rensselaer on Monday, October 31st from 6 pm to 8 pm collecting canned goods to donate to the local food pantry.

Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume as well as Most Collected.

As always, any candy you collect will be yours to keep!

So grab your bags and your costumes and help people in our community!

Transportation is NOT provided, so bring a car, truck, SUV, moped, or whatever else you drive to Halleck Center on Monday, October 31st at 6pm for fun, friendship, and canned food!

Contact Kara Marxer at kmi4494@saintjoe.edu or ext. 8031 or

Ary Nelson at aryn@saintjoe.edu or ext. 6352 to sign up!

Right to Life Hosts Fourth Annual Baby Shower

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief



Above: Sophomore Joanna Askwith explains the rules of a game

On Sunday, October 23, 2005, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Core foyer, the SJC chapter of Right to Life hosted its fourth annual Birthright Baby Shower, an event used to collect donations of baby items for a local Birthright location as well as raise awareness of the missions of Birthright and Right to Life. Right to Life provided refreshments and organized games and activities for the afternoon, and asked that those who attend bring a small donation of baby items to aid expecting mothers who cannot afford such items themselves.

Birthright is an international charitable organization that offers services free of charge to any and all women who "feel distressed by an unplanned pregnancy"

(www.birthright.org). Through Birthright, women can receive pregnancy testing, counseling and support, and housing and legal referrals in addition to maternity and baby clothes and other baby items necessary for providing and caring for an infant. Since Birthright does not charge for the services it provides, it "relies on donations from generous supporters to continue helping pregnant women in need" (www.birthright.org). Right to Life's Birthright Baby Showers are designed to help meet this constant need of supplies by making SJC students aware of Birthright and the beneficial work the organization does as well as raise money and supplies to donate to an Indiana chapter so they may continue helping

pregnant women in need of assistance.

"The baby shower is a fun afternoon event: we eat, we play games, and we socialize. However, it is so much more than that since we ask for supplies to donate to Birthright and help parents who are unable to afford such items themselves," said Right to Life Co-President Amie White.

On Sunday, a table held items for donation given by those who attended, while participants helped themselves to snack food and punch and talked amongst themselves. After

a while, White and sophomore Joanna Askwith began passing out materials for games. White handed out clothes pins,

three a piece, and any time someone said "baby" they lost a clothes pin. The object of the game was to catch people saying "baby" and collect their clothes pin, with the person with the most clothes pins at the end of the afternoon winning. Askwith's game consisted of passing around bags with baby items in them, and participants had to reach into the bag, averting their eyes, and attempt to guess what was in each bag. Several

other baby-oriented games were also planned for the afternoon.

When a game was not being played or for those who would rather not participate in them, there was also plenty of time to just relax and catch up with friends while enjoying good food and the feeling of knowing that one is helping those in need. People wandered in and out over the course of the afternoon, taking advantage of the opportunity to visit, get away from homework, and help benefit a very worthy cause.

Right to Life has been a vital part of the SJC community for eight years, hosting a number of programs to advocate the dignity of all life. Past programs RTL has hosted in addition to the baby shower include the Right to Life Candelight Vigil and Baby Blanket Bash. If you would like

to get involved in Right to Life or would like additional information concerning upcoming activities or meetings, contact White at awi4514@saintjoe.edu or ext. 8168, Co-President Elizabeth Gall at egi4384@saintjoe.edu or ext. 8066, or Ary Nelson in the Campus Ministry office at ext. 6352 or via email at aryn@saintjoe.edu. Be sure to keep a close eye on future Observer issues for news concerning other events sponsored and hosted by Right to Life.

For more information about Birthright International, visit www.birthright.org.



Above: Amie White and a fellow RTL member take a moment to relax

Alumni Live SJC Mission by Reaching Out to Hurricane Katrina Victims

By Katie Grgic, Office of Publications and Media Relations Intern

In order to fulfill the mission statement of the College concerning the "education of the whole person," Saint Joseph's College pledges to "form graduates ... who will embody Gospel values in their personal lives and professional careers," and who "give witness in a special way ... to the Christian Humanist values of justice and love and its commitment to human solidarity and interdependence on national and global levels." Alumni Justin Walters and Dave McNelis from the Classes of 2003 and 2002, respectively, demonstrated through their work with Hurricane Katrina victims that graduates of SJC continue to live its mission statement and commitment to Gospel values long after commencement ceremonies have ended.

McNelis decided he could give more than monetary donations, so he rented a 17-foot U-haul truck and accumulated donations of food, clothing, toiletries, and some basic medical supplies to fill the truck. He contacted Walters, who, although hesitant, decided to help. "I was initially worried that Baton

Rouge was already too overwhelmed with support efforts for us to be very productive," Walters said. "However, I decided that Dave could use some help for this effort to work." The two, with the help of other volunteers, sorted, packed and labeled the supplies, loaded the truck and began the long drive to Baton Rouge.

Once in Baton Rouge, the pair met up with Dale Mathews, owner of The Backpacker, a local retail store. Mathews had asked his suppliers for donations, rented a 30-foot Penske truck, and began receiving brand-new merchandise from outdoor clothing manufacturers for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The group, which included several other volunteers, then headed to some of the larger shelters and set out what they had, allowing victims to go through the merchandise and take what they needed.

Walters found the way the community of Baton Rouge and people all across the country responded to the disaster and the vast relief efforts overwhelming and reassuring. "It was incredibly reassuring to see so many communities pooling their time,

energy and homes to offer to those displaced," Walters said. "People really do want to help ease suffering. We all sort of wake up to our interdependence when disaster strikes; it was such a relief to see so much altruism coming out through this situation. My faith in people has been rejuvenated."

While both feel that the work they did to aid those affected by the hurricane made a difference, Walters is quick to note that change occurred in the lives of all involved, not just the hurricane victims. "I think 'differences' were made in the lives of far more people than the 'victims,'" Walters said. "Differences were made in my life, and in the lives of everyone who gave even the slightest support to us in our journey. Many people currently need food, shelter, schooling (some schools in Baton Rouge are doing an additional 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. school day to carry the new load) and other public services. But many people also need to know the feeling of community and the reality that we all desperately need each other."

PAWS:

To those who attended Stephen Bloom's presentations even though they were not required for class.




To those who attended the soccer games and supported the Pumas over the weekend despite the cold.

CLAWS:

To Core 3 sophomores who answered cell phones during, talked through, and walked out of the lecture on *The Odyssey* given by guest lecturer Dr. Mottoliese, former SJC professor.




To whoever keeps tearing down club signs in the Core and Science buildings, especially those advertising the RTL Baby Shower for Birthright.



Don't miss
The Last Night of Ballyhoo

In the Arts and Science Building Auditorium
October 27, 28, and 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Admissions is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.
Members of the SJC community admitted free of charge



Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



A severed hand draws on a wall. Red rum. (Photo courtesy of www.arcadefire.com)

Arcade Fire Burns Down Emo

Emo music has been tainted with images of nerdy boys with guitars whining about how they lost the love of their life. Their specialty seems to be going on and on about how they will never be loved because some random girl at a bar snubbed them. These images have gotten so severe that many music listeners seem to have forgotten that “emo” is derived from the word emotional. How soon we forget that there was once a time when emotional music was about passionately expressing your feelings through music. Fortunately for us, the Arcade Fire has not forgotten how to make powerful music without sounding as though they are whining.

In 2004, the Arcade Fire released *Funeral*. The title itself is pretty indicative of the songs that can be found on the album. The album title *Funeral* was chosen by the band members because of the tumultuous happenings in each of their lives. In 2003, Régine Chassagne, the wife and fellow bandmate of lead singer Win Butler, passed away. Later, in March of 2004, Butler's grandfather passed away. In addition to these deaths, fellow guitarist, Richard Parry's aunt passed away one month after Butler's grandfather. Since these deaths occurred during the bulk of the writing process, the album has a very emotional tone to it. It speaks to the ideas of losing loved ones, the feeling of unity, and also touches on the mystifying notions of being born again.

Funeral has four songs that use the word “neighborhood” in the title. This theme helps the feeling of unity that they try to bring to the table. In the song “Neighborhood #2 (Laika),” a drum kit starts off the song and gets gradually louder. The song follows a character named Alex

and his suicidal tendencies. The song gets stronger and heavier until it breaks out into a loud brawl and then decrescendos back to a quieter place. The Arcade Fire tries to do something different with each song. In “Une Annee Sans Lumiere,” they sing in both French and English. The French leaves the listener wondering what they are saying and full of curiosity. “In the Backseat” allows Chassagne the chance to bring her vocals forward. The listener can hear the urgency in her voice and her performance proves to be quite powerful.

The overall orchestration of their songs is different. Using a wide array of instruments, the Arcade Fire doesn't use a natural progression in their music. Just when the music seems as though it's going to go one place, the Arcade Fire quickly change directions and does something totally unexpected. This is really evident in the song “Crown of Love.” Starting off with soft piano, the song adds a little decorative violin in the background. By the time the song ends, there is an outbreak of instrumentation and the melody quickly switches to a sound that is remnant of disco.

The Arcade Fire is not an emo band by any means. They have transcended the title of emo music. They have managed to successfully bring emotions to their listener's ears without sounding whining or fake. Their music conveys true emotions that listener can identify with. Even though it has been a little over a year since its release, people still talk about *Funeral*, an album that make many other albums look insignificant in comparison. It is an indie classic and a must have for a music collection.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 9.5
Lyrics: 8
Lasting Appeal: 9.5
Album Cover: 8
Total: 9/10

Waiting Makes a Tasty Burger, Spits in It, and Overcharges

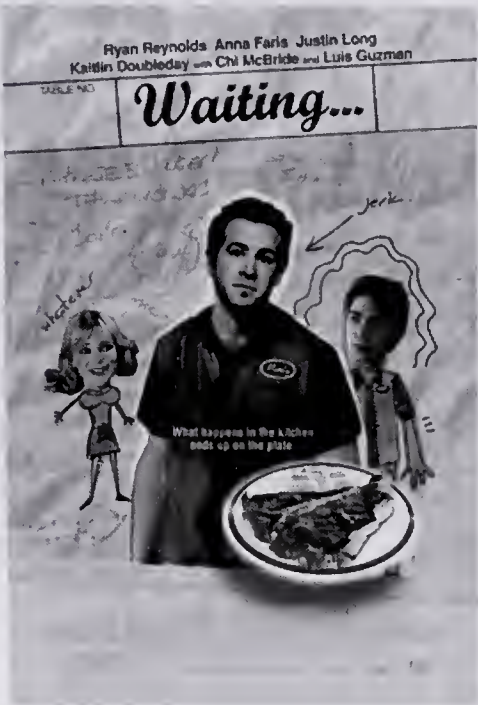
By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

If you learn nothing else from *Waiting*, please simply realize that the gods that be of food services will not hesitate to smite anyone who dares anger them, and that smiting is generally executed through bodily hair and/or fluids.

Perhaps the most disturbing point of *Waiting* is that anyone could fall victim to a cook without a hairnet or a waiter with a bad attitude.

Having never worked in a food service position, I only had vague nightmares of a chef sneezing on my lasagna or a waiter with a dandruff problem shaking his hair back over my bowl of potato soup. *Waiting* changed all of that. I have seen the nightmare and it is real.

Dean (Justin Long, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*) wrestles with his meaningless life as a part-time community college student and a potential promotion to manager of “Shenanigan's,” a thinly-veiled Applebee's or Ruby Tuesday knockoff. Meanwhile, Monty (Ryan Reynolds, *Van Wilder*), a wise-cracking waiter with endless one-line zingers trains Mitch (John Francis Daley), who I swear could be Napoleon Dynamite's younger brother. See for yourself.



A guy holds a plate of meat. Nobody seems to care. (Image courtesy of <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&id=1808626807&cf=pg&photoid=584878&intl=us>)

The not-quite-up-to-health-code staff is completed by waitresses Serena (Anna Faris, *Scary Movie*) and Amy (Kaitlin Doubleday), and cooks Raddimus (Luis Guzman) and Floyd (Dane Cook, raunchy comedian), plus a creepy, over forty, still hoping to be accepted by the twenty-somethings, boss Dan (David Koechner, *Anchorman*).

But my favorite character you ask? That would be the pot smoking, rapping, “gansta”

wanna-be (am I cool enough to say that?) busboy Andy Milonakis. In real life, he is a twenty-nine-year-old man stuck in a teenager's body, but definitely one of the funnier characters this side of the buffet line.

Enhancing the simply storyline which takes place in a single day, there's an overflow of male nudity references, huffing, and constant obscenities.

Not exactly a film for all ages. Or for anyone with a sense of comedy more complex than toilet humor for that matter.

America agreed and *Waiting* debuted seventh out of the top ten, but never rose above their first box office stab.

However, there is one single joke in *Waiting* that makes the entire movie

worth the nine bucks you shelled out to see it. I'm afraid it is far too offensive to explain, but when you hear this joke, trust me, you'll know it.

The movie is served up with a hefty helping of spice for flavor and a topping of cheese to make the flick go down smoothly. *Waiting* is a perfectly acceptable way to waste 93 minutes of your short lives.

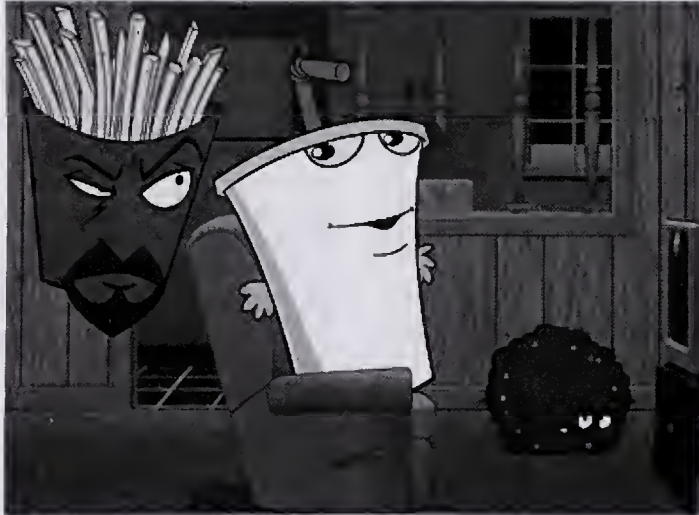
Aqua Teen Hunger Force Serves Randomness with a Side of Justice

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

An irrational talking shake. A creepily intelligent order of fries. A psychotic bit of raw meat. A summary of your last meal in the cafeteria? Probably, but that's not my department. My job is to tell you that those things are also the main characters in [adultswim]'s “Aqua Teen Hunger Force.”

The Dave Willis and Matt Maiellaro project began as a rejected *Space Ghost: Coast-to-Coast* episode that featured Master Shake, Frylock, and Meatwad as disgruntled restaurant representatives. When Comedy Central was looking to start an adult themed block of programming in 2000, the writing duo pitched the characters as part of a full-fledged show.

So what is *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* about? The [adultswim] website says, “If you have to ask...it is probably not a show for you.” In all honesty, it is hard to pin down a description of an “average” 15-minute episode. The show is the very essence of entropy; sometimes there are aliens, sometimes there are mutant brownie/fly hybrids, and sometimes there are giant



The fries have an eye for the milkshake. The meatball feels unloved. (Photo courtesy of http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/j/msnbc/Components/Photos/040715/040715_summerShows_hmed_12p.hmedium.jpg)

chickens. The only thing that one could guarantee about any given episode is that it will be sufficiently random to mete out many laughs. It is best summed up in a haiku: *The Aqua Teen crew / Are extremely random. Laughs: / inevitable.*

The show does have its issues, however. Although the 15-minute format is usually appropriate for the situations the members of the Hunger Force get themselves into, it often leaves one wanting more. And while the seemingly indiscriminate moments tend to be funny,

sometimes they're just confusing. Coupled with the lack of continuity that will baffle some viewers, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* is not a show for all. For those who can stomach the insanity though, the show is a four Smurf delight, and fans will be happy to hear that a full-length movie is planned for release in 2006.



Death from Above: How the Avian Flu Will Kill Everybody

By Joe Larson, *Co-Editor in Chief*

Everyone is going to die. I don't mean that in the sense that mankind is mortal. I mean it in the sense that the four horsemen of the apocalypse just knocked on your door. They're selling Girl Scout cookies. And they're all out of Thin Mints. It only takes a glance at the modern world to realize that the signs of doom are all around us. Since 2003, all of the following have been linked to cancer: tanning beds, AM radio, baby food, fizzy drinks, food coloring, and salt. Basically, eating food causes cancer, as opposed to not eating food, which causes starvation. It's good to have options. Fortunately, another study has proven that smoking pot reduces your chances of getting the disease. So if you're listening to National Public Radio (an AM station) and smoking pot (the only way to enjoy NPR) you'll probably break even, but if you get the munchies and eat something salty your body will turn into a pulsating cancer bomb. Be sure to tell your neighbors to duck and cover.

But the real reason the world is coming to an end is the avian flu. If the bubonic plague was a member of the animal kingdom, it would be a tiger; if the avian flu was an animal, it would be a 10,000-foot-tall killer robot. As the media continues to explain how the avian flu will destroy us all, world leaders are preparing for the catastrophe by booking flights to other, safer worlds. This panic is completely justified.

Since 2003, the avian flu has killed a total of 61 people worldwide. If it continues to take lives at this rapid pace, and if all births suddenly come to a halt and no one dies of old age, the avian flu will kill the entire population of the earth in a mere 212 million years. To put that in perspective, 212 million years ago Strom Thurmond was six. It's time to be concerned.

The main danger posed by the avian flu is that it could develop into a form that can be passed from human to human. Right now, it is mostly transferred from bird to bird and can only make the jump to humans with great difficulty since it is transmitted sexually – thus explaining its presence in humans in West Virginia and southern Kentucky. "Experts" on the matter claim the avian flu, which is also called H5N1, is not a STD and has never surfaced in North America, but they have been wrong about diseases in the past. Everyone remembers when it was cool to be afraid of ailments like West Nile Virus, SARS, and the Macarena. Scientists predicted that each of these diseases would kill millions of people, when in reality they only killed a few hundred, except for the Macarena which wiped out all of Asia.

One reason scientists are so worked up about H5N1 is that it's supposedly similar to the Spanish Flu, which killed around 40 million people in 1918. This would be frightening were it not



Welcome to America, bird. (Photos courtesy of http://www.chars-francais.net/images/archives/amx30_roland/roland_missile.jpg and http://www.edenpics.com/pictures/005/en/1024/Edenpics-com_005-017-Zoom-on-a-bird-of-prey-vulture-seen-from-bottom-on-a-blue-sky-Nepal-Khumbu.jpg)

for the fact that people from the past were wimps. These old-timers often died from relatively mild ailments like polio and world wars. Many of them did not even have electricity, an unfortunate development for them since all diseases fear the light bulb. The only people more susceptible to disease than our ancestors are Canadians. The SARS escapade killed 28 Canadians and zero Americans. One might assume that this is because of inherent flaws in Canada's universal health care system, but it actually has nothing to do with medicine. Americans are just manlier than our neighbors to the north. For example, if you have a work-related accident in Canada, you go to a "doctor" for "treatment." If you get your arm cut off at a factory in America, you stick it back on with some duct tape and get back to the assembly line.

This toughness will definitely come in handy when fighting the

bird flu. If the disease does come to America, we'll just blast the hell out of it. The flu is being spread by migrating birds, but the last time I checked, a goose cannot outrun a surface-to-air missile. The key is creativity. Instead of using shotguns, duck hunters will use flamethrowers, and instead of throwing bread crumbs, old women in parks will toss grenades. With a little effort, pigeons will no longer plague city streets, and the condor's reign of terror will finally come to an end. Conservation will ultimately be replaced by environmental genocide, a change in name rather than policy.

Killing all birds may be good, wholesome fun, but it won't save humanity. The avian flu has killed 61 people since 2003; the regular flu killed between 25,000 and 35,000 last year alone. The reason no one cares about the regular flu is that it only kills the elderly, who die from everything

anyway. Confused by modern marvels like indoor plumbing and the wheel, the elderly have a one in four chance of flushing themselves to death or driving through a crowded farmers' market. Even ordinary household items prove deadly to the senile. A tanning bed causes young people to get skin cancer, but it causes old people to start on fire. This makes sense since the elderly are basically pieces of firewood that poop themselves. They would be a cheaper source of heat than natural gas if they smelled better. Sadly, natural gas burns clean, while the elderly are likely to give your house that old person funk for months.

There is only one solution to all the death and disease in the world: suing God. For too many years, He has sat in His opulent palace on the moon, laughing at the misfortunes of humanity. During His term in office, the earth has suffered through high inflation, record unemployment, and 10 ice ages. I don't remember voting for Him. So now, on the eve of the bird flu epidemic, we have two choices: we can spend all of our time and resources killing birds and ignoring the elderly, or we can file a few lawsuits against God and try to get rich before we die. I'll start filling out the paper work, and if worst comes to worst, I'll just spill coffee on myself.

Jack Thompson: Worst Joke Ever

By Mike Caristi, *Staff Writer*

I haven't anywhere near enough time or space to give you a rundown of what the lawyer John Bruce ("Jack") Thompson has been doing lately. You can find out quite accurately yourself by typing "Jack Thompson" into your favorite search engine. But let me give you the basic idea: Jack Thompson holds violent video games responsible for murder.

Now, note that the Florida Bar Association actually gave Thompson a license to practice law. He is a practicing lawyer. Bear that in mind while I point out the following, because this isn't an article to argue with Thompson's stance on video games; that's already been driven into the ground by the entire online world.

Thompson's method of debate goes something like this: 1) State unique perspective 2) Insult opposition with such forensic gems as "knucklehead," "idiot," "moron," and "mental midget" 3) Degrade or stereotype opposition with such terms as "child," "kid," and "Are all of you gamers on drugs, or what?" 4) Threaten legal action if contact continues (even if he's the one who first contacted the opposition)

Remind you of anything? Let me spell it out. The lawyer argues



The only thing that can stop violence is more violence. Much, much more. (Photo courtesy of <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/vol291/issue15/images/medium/jmn40045f1.jpg>)

like a two-year-old.

This is to say nothing of the fact that Thompson takes hours out of his day just to respond to emails with comments to the extent that he's a very busy and important man and has no time to talk to idiots.

Ladies and gentlemen, what we have here is a logical quandary. I don't pretend to know how the Florida Bar Association tests people for their legal licenses, but I'm positive that any practicing lawyer can win an argument with a 14-year-old. (Interested? Watch for yourself, and see what happens to Mr. Thompson! http://croquaudile.com/?article_id=10299)

The question that comes to mind is, "Is this serious?" Usually when something like this crops up in the online world, it's nothing but a prank.

Therefore, I submit to you Mike Caristi's Theory of Thompson Existentialism. Here it is. Brace yourselves.

Jack Thompson does not exist. Jack Thompson is nothing but a big practical joke on the part of the online community. Any day now, somebody's going to jump out and say "October Fools!" and everyone will laugh and start thinking about how to top it next year.

Thompson himself is, in every sense of the word, a joke. It's the only logical explanation.

Owen Smith Entertains Students, Displays Comedic Talent

By Julia LaBlanc, *Staff Writer*

Entertainer and comedian Owen Smith, who was sponsored by SUB, caused students to laugh themselves out of the Halleck Student Center Wednesday night. The Student Union Board decided as a group that Owen Smith would be the best fit for the entertainment here at Saint Joseph's College. SUB receives videos from entertainment companies featuring different genres and different categories of entertainment and Owen Smith was on the top of the list.

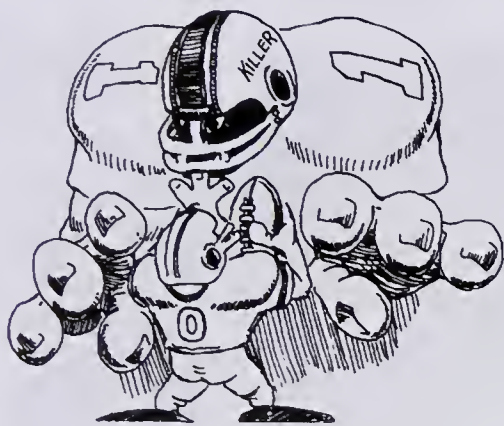
Owen Smith was born in the Bahamas, grew up with his mom, and knew his dad. He was raised by his mom in New Jersey. He attended Notre Dame, where his career sparked. He entered a talent show his freshmen year in college and won it, and ever since then he thought it was his calling to be a comedian. He was a guest on the show produced by Chris Rock, *Everybody Hates Chris*. The show airs Thursday nights at 7 p.m. on TBS.

Smith told numerous jokes that kept the students wanting more. He told jokes mainly

about his life: about dating, growing up, and his college life at Notre Dame. He tried to make it easy for students to relate to his humor. He made his jokes simple to make sure that everyone was laughing and that everybody would be able to understand his creativity as a comedian.

Students seemed to really enjoy his entertainment. According to junior criminal justice major Sean Belt, a member of SUB, "If you went to Bill Burr last year, Owen Smith put him to shame. And if he comes back, don't miss him."

Owen Smith brought in a large number of people who didn't stop laughing from 9-10 p.m. – entertained for an hour straight! SUB and the students were very impressed with his facetiousness and are surely planning on asking him to come back next year. Sophomore business administration major Missy Kiefer stated, "He was an outspoken, outstanding, witty, and entertaining comedian. I very much enjoyed him, he was great."



Puma Football Runs Over Competition

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

The Pumas won their sixth straight game of the season beating up on another Indiana rival, Butler University 23-7. The Pumas racked up over 400 yards of total offense including a season high 180 yards rushing; while holding Butler to sixteen rushing yards. Junior Greg Ford led the Pumas with 125 yards rushing, and Sophomore Anthony Lindsey threw for another 200+ yards. Lindsey becomes the first quarterback in Saint Joe history to throw for over 2000 yards in back to back seasons. A second quarter touchdown pass to sophomore Dan Paulsen put him

in the SJC record book with his fifteenth career touchdown reception. The defense was lead by a couple "Bennett Boys" as junior Cory Sanders led the Pumas with eight tackles and a career high 2.5 sacks. When the quarterback had enough time to actually get the ball off, it was probably picked off by the Pumas, led by junior Cory Gregory (two picks). The win guaranteed the Pumas their first back to back winning seasons since '86-87. The Pumas try to continue the streak this next weekend, with a good test in the University of Indianapolis.

Editor's Picks to Click: Sports Movies to Watch

Baseball	Football
Field of Dreams The Natural The Sandlot The Rookie Fever Pitch For the Love of the Game A League of Their Own Pride of the Yankees	Brian's Song Rudy Remember the Titans Friday Night Lights Varsity Blues The Program Any Given Sunday Knute Rockne All-American

Memorable Quotes

"...sometime when the team is up against it and the breaks are beating the boys, tell them to go out there with all they've got and win just one for the Gipper. (pause) I don't know where I'll be then, Rock,' he said, 'but I'll know about it and I'll be happy.'" -Knute Rockne

"On any given Sunday you're gonna win or you're gonna lose. The point is -- can you win or lose like a man?" -Tony D'Amato

Upcoming Puma Sporting Events

Football

SENIOR DAY

October 29 vs. Indianapolis @ 12 p.m.

Volleyball

October 28 vs. Northern Kentucky @ 7 p.m.

October 29 vs. Bellarmine @ 2 p.m.

November 2 vs. Illinois Tech @ 7 p.m.



Cross Country Wraps Up Another Season

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

This past weekend, there was much commotion on campus. Buses and throngs of people filed into Saint Joseph's College as if the pope were here. On Saturday, SJC hosted the 2005 Great Lakes Valley Conference Cross Country Championship. The men's and women's cross country teams were excited to see the GLVC championship trophies brought into the athletic conference on Friday evening, and were eager to keep them in Rensselaer.

Despite valiant efforts from both the teams and ideal cross country weather, the Pumas finished ninth in both divisions. In the men's 8000 meter race (5 miles), juniors Andy Vandehey, Eric Fleming, and Joe King finished thirty-fifth, forty-ninth, and fifty-third, respectively, breaking 26:30. In the women's race, sophomore Ashley Moore set a new school record with a time of 22:55, finishing thirty-second overall for 6000 meters (3.7 miles). Jordan Henley

(forty-second), Kim Woodruff (fifty-sixth), Jacqui Mohr (sixty-first), and Danielle Stockmaster (sixty-fifth) rounded out the scoring for the girls. The University of Southern Indiana men and the Wisconsin-Parkside women captured the team titles. Southern Indiana had six finishers in the top ten of the men's race, while Wisconsin-Parkside's women stayed close together throughout the entire race.

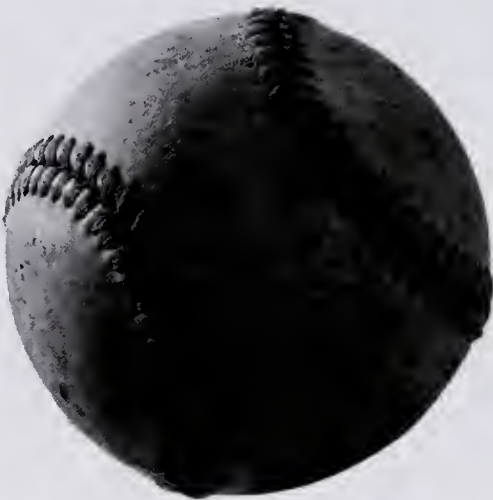
The disappointing finish at conference for both teams comes at the end of a season plagued with injuries. Sophomores Ryan Hall and Matt Leonardo and Freshman Jenna Helton were all sidelined for most of the year with stress fractures. Even though the team is unsatisfied with its performance, junior captain Andy Vandehey is optimistic about the future. "For the most part, we really gave our best today out on the course. The competition was

very tough and we did what we could. We've also had to overcome a lot of obstacles this year with injuries. We just need to evaluate the season and look towards the future," says Vandehey. The Pumas lose no one for next year's season, and gain redshirt freshman Val Ploetz (Hanover Central).

2005 WORLD SERIES



VS



Game 1	Houston 3 @ Chicago 5	October 22
Game 2	Houston @ Chicago	October 23
Game 3	Chicago @ Houston	October 25
Game 4	Chicago @ Houston	October 26
Game 5*	Chicago @ Houston	October 27 7:00 p.m.
Game 6*	Houston @ Chicago	October 29 6:30 p.m.
Game 7*	Houston @ Chicago	October 30 6:00 p.m.

*If necessary

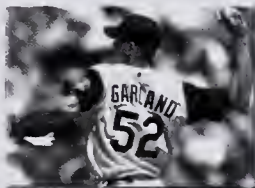
(Image courtesy of <http://www.wfcfm.com/images/baseball.jpg>)

Pitching Staff

Game 2 Andy Petitte vs. Mark Buehrle



Game 3 Roy Oswalt vs. Jon Garland



Game 4 Brandon Backe vs. Freddy Garcia



Tradition and Team Trump Record

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer

If you were to go out and watch a girls' soccer game you would assume their record was perfect. Their record fails to display of how hard this team works and how good they truly are. They are in their first season under head coach Jason Dowiak. However, the girls have not let their record get them down. But their record does not mean anything now! On Sunday October 23, Senior Day, the girls defeated Bellarmine in overtime

3-2. Senior Annie Stupic had only one word that could describe the game, simply "Magical." The girls will go on to the Conference Tourney.
The women's soccer team is sometimes referred to as a "cult." When asked what they thought about being called a cult the girls just laughed. In the words of sophomore Maddy Starin, "People only think that way because we're really close and wear cloaks when we hang out." Obviously, they don't wear the

cloaks, but on game days they will wear their warm-ups as a way to illustrate their unity and focus.
Those close to the team know about their pre-game tradition. They take some time to reflect and pray. Junior Jenna Mullins takes the tradition to heart. She said, "I sit on the same bench when the team goes to the Grotto."
The girls have an amazing relationship with each other. Mullins explains their chemistry

well, "No one stays mad at each other for long. We have too much fun together and we always leave it on the field."
The girls would like to thank the fans for coming out and supporting them and they would also like to thank "the family."



Halloween Double Feature

- What? A showing of the original 1931 classic films *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*.
- When? *Saturday, October 29, at 11:00 p.m.*
- Where? *Fountain Stone Theatres, behind Walmart and past Rico's in Rensselaer.*
- Cost? *\$7.00 total in advance or \$9.00 total at the door.*
- As always, for more information, check out www.fountainstone.com.

Bugs Bunny on Broadway

- What? *Orchestral versions of classical music found in old Bugs Bunny cartoons are brought to life in downtown Indianapolis.*
- Who? *The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of George Daugherty.*
- When? *8:00 p.m. on November 18 and 19, and 2 p.m. at 7 p.m. on November 20.*
- Where? *Hilbert Circle Theatre on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis.*
- Cost? *Prices range from \$31 to \$65.*
- Call 1.800.366.8457 or visit www.indianapolissymphony.org for further details.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Oct 27 - Nov 3
(219) 866-2222

www.fountainstonetheaters.com

The Legend of Zorro

Fri: 5:10, 7:30 (PG)
Sat: 2:50, 5:10, 7:30
Sun: 2:50, 5:10, 7:30
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:30

Dreamer

Fri: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Elizabethtown

Fri: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20 (PG-13)
Sat: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
Sun: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
Mon-Th: 4:50, 7:20

Doom

Fri: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (R)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Fri: 3:10, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 3:10, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:10, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Late Night Double Feature Picture Show

Saturday Oct. 29 11 p.m.
Frankenstein (1931)
Dracula (1931)



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Kill others with kindness and you will end up on top. You need a change in your surroundings; put up a new poster that inspires you. Luck is on your side right now, so reach for the stars. Re-examine what you really want right now and achieve it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Lay off the caffeine and get some more sleep—or do you want to have a stroke in the near future? If you want something done, do it yourself. Weed out things that are bringing you down and focus on the good; no one wants to be around a grumpy Gus. Stop focusing on the trivial aspects of life and look at the big picture.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
Love is in the air. Surprise your special someone with a romantic evening; you will not regret it... Do not let materialistic items blur your vision of what is truly important: money cannot buy you happiness. Stop procrastinating and start that project you have been putting off.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
Peace is the key, so stop causing

petty fights. You cannot have your cake and eat it; give and you shall receive. Funds are getting tight; work some extra hours or start looking for a new job. Stop being your own worst enemy and see the strengths you possess.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)
Your friends and family know you best so listen to what they have to say. Stay focused with group projects; this is not the time to be a leader but a member of the team. You cannot be perfect at everything you do; excel in your strengths and grow from your weaknesses. A little competition never hurts.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Listen to the whole story before you take sides; this is not the time to misinterpret another's intentions. Stop spreading puma rumors—do you want people to trust you? Get off campus for a while; you need a break. Watch a scary movie or visit a haunted house. Get that adrenaline pumping.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)
Be confident with yourself and stop being so jealous of others. This is your time to lead the group—put others talents to good

use. Take time and listen to those around you; you will gain useful knowledge. Stop being so down in the dumps, and do something that makes you happy.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
Take a chill pill and relax; why are you letting everything get under your skin? Be happy with what you have, or you will never truly appreciate anything. Praise for your hard work is finally on its way. Go for a run to relive the stress that is making you feel overwhelmed. Stand up for what you believe in, but put your pride to the side.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Do not be a follower—but do follow your intuition. Lend a helping hand to others; the rewards are priceless. Think things through before taking any actions; your vision is blurred right now. Balance your check book. You would not want to bounce a check right now.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
Health is a concern right now—drink some orange juice and get some rest. Stop skipping class; you are digging a hole you cannot escape. Apologies are coming your way; you were right. Stop

being so gullible or you will be taken advantage of. Do not fear the word *no*.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
Look past the mumbojumbo of everyday life to see what is truly getting you down. Try being a bit more patient, and others will change their ways for you. Learn from your mistakes or history will repeat itself. All work and no play is no fun—get out of your room and live it up!

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
When is the last time you cleaned your room? Dust bunnies are taking over! In future endeavors lead the group; you have a keen sense of direction. Switch up the pace and do something new. Stop standing on the sidelines and get involved in the game; it will be over before you know it.

This week's stars have been read by your Auntie Cleo.



Random Holidays

Who would have thought that October and November were such exciting months? Read on to find reasons to celebrate on a daily basis.

- October 27: Sylvia Plath Day.
- October 28: National Chocolate Day.
- October 29: Hermit Day.
- October 30: National Candy. Corn Day.
- October 31: National Magic Day.
- November 1: Plan Your Epitaph Day.
- November 2: National Deviled Egg Day.
- November 3: Housewives' Day.
- November 4: Waiting for the Barbarians Day.
- November 5: Gunpowder Day.
- November 6: Saxophone Day.
- November 7: National Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day.
- November 8: Dunce Day.
- November 9: Chaos Never Dies Day.
- November 10: Forget-Me-Not Day.

Courtesy of www.thinkquest.org.

Random Halloween Trivia!

Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the autumn harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.

Jack-o-lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.

Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green.

Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.

Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human.

Halloween candy sales average about two billion dollars annually in the United States.

Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers as number one.

Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday, Christmas being the first.

Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the Roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.

Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.

Courtesy of www.halloween-website.com/trivia.htm



Marvin Hamlisch Live!

- What? *Award-winning composer and pianist Marvin Hamlisch plays all his hits.*
- When? *Saturday, November 5, at 8:00 p.m.*
- Where? *Clowes Memorial Hall at Butler University, 4600 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis, IN.*
- Cost? *Tickets range from \$24 to \$40.*
- Call 1.800.732.0804 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Chicagoween

- What? *Storytellers, pumpkin decorating, fortune tellers, a farmer's market, and acrobatics abound in downtown Chicago.*
- When? *Now through October 31, starting at 5:30 p.m. nightly.*
- Where? *Daley Plaza in Chicago.*
- Cost? *Free for all.*
- Visit www.cityofchicago.org for more information.

Trick-or-Treat in Rensselaer

- What? *Join the youth of Rensselaer for the candy and the community.*
- When? *October 31 (of course) from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. officially.*
- Where? *The city of Rensselaer.*
- Cost? *Free. Costumes and candy receptacles are a must.*
- Visit www.cityofrensselaer.in.com for more Rensselaer information.

